

By Express Mail # EV329S99S13US

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 1 1. A housing arrangement for a friction clutch having a direction of rotation about an axis, said housing arrangement comprising a housing in the form of a cup having a bottom transverse to said axis and a circumferential edge area defining an interior, said housing having at least one air opening in said bottom, each said through-opening being bounded by a front edge and a rear edge with respect to said direction of rotation, said front edge being axially offset toward said interior with respect to said rear edge.
- 1 2. A housing arrangement as in claim 1 wherein said bottom has an exterior surface opposite from said interior, said exterior surface sloping down toward said interior at said front edge.
- 1 3. A housing arrangement as in claim 1 wherein said bottom has an interior surface facing said interior, said interior surface rising upward toward said rear edge.
- 1 4. A housing arrangement as in claim 1 comprising a plurality of said air through-openings distributed about said axis of rotation.
- 1 5. A housing arrangement as in claim 4 wherein said air through-openings are arranged in circumferentially spaced groups.

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- 1 6. A housing arrangement as in claim 1 wherein said housing is cast metal.
- 1 7. A housing arrangement as in claim 1 wherein said housing is unbalanced prior to
2 assembling other components to said housing.
- 1 8. A housing arrangement as in claim 4 wherein said bottom comprises a web
2 separating said front edge of one of said openings from a rear edge of another one of
3 said openings, said web having a surface facing said interior and a surface facing away
4 from said interior, at least one of said surfaces being at an acute angle to a plane
5 orthogonal to said axis of rotation.
- 1 9. A friction clutch having a direction of rotation about an axis, said friction clutch
2 comprising a housing in the form of a cup having a bottom transverse to said axis and a
3 circumferential edge area defining an interior, said housing having at least one air
4 opening in said bottom, each said through-opening being bounded by a front edge and
5 a rear edge with respect to said direction of rotation, said front edge being axially offset
6 toward said interior with respect to said rear edge.
- 1 10. A friction clutch as in claim 9 further comprising a plurality of clutch disks.